

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF HENRY BACON, 101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY,
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1921.

A committee meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held at the office of Henry Bacon, 101 Park Avenue, New York City, Tuesday, July 26, 1921,

The following members were present:

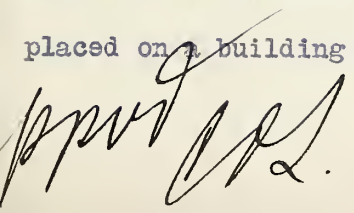
Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Fraser;
Mr. Bacon;
Mr. Ayres;
Mr. Mowbray;

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary, who served as secretary of the meeting in the absence of Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT WAR MEMORIAL: A preliminary design was submitted for the proposed war memorial of the Agricultural Department by the War Memorial Committee of that Department. The design represented a fountain with a pink Tennessee marble background, including columns, sixteen feet high, with space for a bronze slab in the center and a granite platform with inscriptions. The Agricultural Department committee had reported that they were submitting the design with the understanding that such a memorial would cost about \$15,000, and that it was their desire to have it placed in front of the Agricultural Department building on the Mall.

The committee gave the matter careful consideration. The committee disapproved placing a memorial of such design in front of the Agricultural Department building, and stated further that they believe such a memorial would cost at least \$50,000. Mr. Bacon advised that in designing a memorial to be placed on a building the architect should be consulted. Mr. Mowbray suggested



that it would be better to place a memorial at a moderate cost as a tablet within the building itself. A discussion followed as to monuments for the Mall during which Mr. Ayres suggested that there ought to be a scheme of monuments for the Mall. The committee concurred in this suggestion. The Mall will be two miles long and eight hundred feet wide, and will form the central motif of the plan of Washington. Mr. Moore stated that it would be unwise to place a monument in the Mall in front of the Agricultural Department building until the grading is completed. The grades are now about eight feet higher than they will be when the Agricultural Department building is completed. (Exhibit A).

2. MEADE MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore reported that somewhat over a year ago the Commission of Fine Arts had received a letter from the Pennsylvania Meade Memorial Commission suggesting inscriptions for the Meade Memorial, and that after consideration of the question by the Commission they recommended a very brief inscription, limited if possible to simply the word "Meade" to correspond to the name "Grant" on the Grant Memorial. Mr. Moore stated that the matter was brought to the attention of Senator Knox for consideration and advice and that the Senator replied under date of July 14, 1921 as follows:

"I entirely agree with the suggestion that the word "Meade" is all that is sufficient and carries more dignity than any other description that could be suggested."

The committee were unanimous in having simply the name "Meade" for the inscription on the memorial. The committee suggested that if the Pennsylvania Meade Memorial Commission desired some additional inscription the same could be placed on the pavement of the memorial.

A letter dated July 2, 1921 had been received from Mr. Charles Grafly stating that he desired to have the members of the Commission come to his summer studio at Folly Cove, Massachusetts, some time this summer to inspect the

Meade Statue and the members agreed to meet there on Wednesday, August third.

3. MISSOURI CENTENNIAL COIN: Mr. Fraser brought to the attention of the committee a Missouri Centennial half dollar sent to him by Hon. Raymond T. Baker, Director of the Mint, with a letter expressing his appreciation and thanks for assistance given by the Commission in the production of the coin.

4. RESOLUTION IN RE ALLOTMENTS: RESOLVED, That to conform with the requirements of Section 3679 of the Revised Statutes of the United States the funds appropriated for the Commission of Fine Arts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, be made available at any time during the year and that no special allotments by quarters be made.

5. ✓ PEACE DOLLAR: In accordance with suggestions made at the meeting of the Commission on June 9th regarding a design for a Peace Dollar recommended by the Director of the Mint, the committee gave further consideration to the question of a plan of procedure for securing a design, and recommended, with the approval of the Director of the Mint, a program of competition along the lines followed in the case of the Verdun Medal. The figure of Liberty is to be retained on the obverse. The committee felt that one hundred dollars was a small amount for a competitor, and simply a sketch from which a reduced photograph could be obtained would not be satisfactory as it would not bring out the features of the design. Mr. Fraser stated, however, that in producing a model for a Peace Dollar there would be less work involved than there was required for the model of the Verdun Medal. (Exhibit B).

6. ✓ UNITED STATES CURRENCY: Mr. Moore reported that on July 15, 1921, Mr. G. F. C. Smillie, Superintendent of Picture Engraving, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, called for an interview regarding United States currency. Mr. Smillie stated that there is urgent need for giving this matter immediate atten-

tion because of the fact that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will experience difficulty in securing plates for its currency when the existing ones are used up. Mr. Smillie stated that the great problem is that the engravers for the Government at the Bureau are not given a salary equal to that given by the American Bankers Association, and that as the expert engravers at the Bureau now are about completing their period of service in the Government he urged that something be done to meet the situation and protect the United States currency. Mr. Smillie and Mr. Moore suggested an interview with Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Wadsworth on the subject for which Mr. Smillie agreed to prepare a report.

The committee after a lengthy discussion of the subject felt that great improvement could be made in the design of the existing currency and that a plan might be adopted whereby one, or possibly four or five, plates could be used for the bank notes issued by the national banks in this country instead of the many individual plates. The committee also thought a scheme could be devised for the engraving of an entire series of United States bank notes, and that consideration should also be given to the size of the note.

The committee suggested as an artist for producing a design an architectural designer and painter, he to leave a place on the design for the portrait, engraved copies of which could be secured from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The committee recommended Mr. Charles A. Platt, architect and former member of the Commission, for this work. (Exhibit C).

7. ✓ TITANIC MEMORIAL POOL: Colonel Sherrill submitted the following letter with design from the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds regarding the pool for the Titanic Memorial:

"There is transmitted herewith plan for the proposed Titanic Memorial site. It will be noted that the three streets, E Street, the Park Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue do not intersect at a common point.

It is proposed to locate the pool as indicated on this plan. The views of the Fine Arts Commission are requested as to this proposed location."

The approved design of the Titanic Memorial shows the pool on the axis of E Street, the Rock Creek Parkway, and New Hampshire Avenue, whereas, as a result of a recent survey it is found that the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and the Parkway is at a point eleven feet south of the center line of E Street. The problem submitted to the committee was how to best locate the pool in view of these conditions. The committee gave the matter very careful consideration and stated that the pool in front of the Titanic Memorial should be on the axis of E Street and the Parkway. It is necessary to have it on the axis of E Street since there it will be directly in line with the figure of the Titanic Memorial. The central panels of green in New Hampshire Avenue will prevent attention being called to the fact that the pool is off axis of that street. The committee approved the suggested design indicated in the drawing for the change in the location of the pool resulting from the recent survey.

8. ✓ HEADSTONE, WORLD WAR GRAVES: Mr. Fraser reported that in accordance with advice received from the Office of the Quartermaster General that they favor the Cross and Star of David carved on the stone, for which it is necessary to have models made, he had secured an offer from Mr. Leo Friedlander, 71 Woodside Street, Stamford, Connecticut, to make the models for \$75.00. The committee thought the offer reasonable and recommended that Colonel Penrose, Chief of the Graves Registration Service, be advised accordingly. (Exhibit D).

9. EXECUTIVE ORDER: Mr. Moore reported that in accordance with a previous custom of the Commission, soon after the inauguration of a President of the United States, he had called upon President Harding, and requested him to issue an Executive Order calling the attention of the executive officers of the government to the fact that it is the function of the Commission of Fine Arts to give advice in works of art in which the government is concerned.

Mr. Moore stated that during the past years all the Departments of the Government have been cooperating with the Commission with the exception of the District Government, which has claimed to be not within the scope of the organic law creating the Commission of Fine Arts and subsequent executive orders, and that this has caused a conflict, in that the Commission of Fine Arts has insisted on the development of the National Capital in the classical type of architecture, as established by Washington and Jefferson in the L'Enfant plan, and the Senate Park Commission plan, of 1901, whereas the District Government has at various times disregarded the advice of the Commission in this matter, and adopted other types of buildings, particularly school buildings. Mr. Moore stated that he had requested the President to issue the Order so as to make it binding on the District Government. The Committee concurred in the request.

10. ALABAMA CENTENNIAL COIN: Mr. Moore brought to the attention of the committee a letter which he had received under date of July 15, 1921 from Hon. L. B. Rainey, of Alabama, transmitting a copy of a letter from Mrs. Mary B. Owen, of the Alabama Centennial Commission, Montgomery, Alabama, advising that the Commission, with the approval of the Governor, had decided that the Alabama Centennial Coin should be minted in accordance with the Act of Congress approved May 10, 1920. The Alabama Commission, however, suggested a change in

the obverse of the model, which had been made under Mr. Fraser's direction to the effect that instead of the heads of Monroe and Wilson those of Governor Bibbs (Governor at the time Alabama was admitted to the Union) and Governor Kilby (the present incumbent) be shown. A few other changes were to be made in the obverse as in the arrangement of stars and the lettering. The Alabama Centennial Commission gave authority for proceeding in the work with the understanding that the model and dies would not cost more than \$800.00, the estimate heretofore specified for such work. Mr. Fraser was agreeable to this, and the committee endorsed the changes suggested in the design.

11. ✓ ASBURY MEMORIAL: The committee visited the studio of Mr. Augustus Lukeman, 454 West Forty-first Street, New York City, to inspect the full-size plaster model of the proposed monument of Francis Asbury, to be located in Washington at Sixteenth and Mount Pleasant Streets. The committee thought the model, both horse and rider, very well executed and congratulated the sculptor on the success of his work. The committee made a few minor suggestions pertaining to the sculpture.

Mr. Lukeman presented a revised design for the pedestal of the memorial which embodied the suggestions of the Commission made at its meeting on June 9th in doing away with the proposed architectural treatment. The committee recommended several changes in the design of the pedestal - the elimination of the carving near the top of the pedestal, the placing of the name "Asbury" in front of the pedestal; and simplification of the base, - according to the changes noted on the blueprint. The committee requested that any inscriptions which may be proposed for the pavement of the Memorial be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for approval.

The committee approved the model with the suggested changes in the design of the pedestal. (Exhibit E).

12. ✓ ZERO MILESTONE: Mr. Fraser submitted two revised designs forwarded to him by Mr. Peaslee for the "compass" in bronze to be placed on top of the Zero Milestone. Mr. Fraser recommended Design "A" for adoption. The design shows the points of the compass, the longitude and latitude of Washington, and the elevation at the proposed location of the Milestone south of the White House grounds. The committee approved the adoption of Design "A" with certain changes which were noted on the design and are to be incorporated in the model which is to be submitted to the Commission. The committee advised a reinforcement on the edge so that the plate cannot be lifted by anyone who might tamper with it.

13. FORT LINCOLN CEMETERY: Mr. Moore reported that several months ago the Commission was informed of a proposed plan in the Surveyor's Office of the District of Columbia to lay out Eastern Avenue and that at the time the Commission informed the Commissioners of the District of Columbia that it is the desire of the Commission of Fine Arts that Eastern Avenue follow along contours which would preserve the Park Drive along the northern boundary of the District. Recently the project was again brought to the attention of the Commission through the Fort Lincoln Cemetery Company, whose property adjoins Eastern Avenue. Representatives of the Company stated that they feared the District Commissioners propose laying out Eastern Avenue directly along the boundary line of the District, which would require a deep cut along the southern boundary of the Fort Lincoln Cemetery, thereby marring the scenery and jeopardizing park features and development at this point in the locality. Mr. Moore stated that pursuant to a request for a conference on the subject he and Colonel Sherrill met with representatives of the Fort Lincoln Cemetery Company, also with Major Besson, Assistant to the Engineer Commissioner of the District, to go over the project, at which conference the project was gone over in detail.

The plan provides for maintaining the park connection along the northern boundary of the District and to avoid the cut along Eastern Avenue. The plan suggests a slight detour to the south into property already owned by the Government under the jurisdiction of the National Training School for Boys. The representatives of the Fort Lincoln Cemetery Company stated that if this plan is officially adopted they would restrict a portion of their property to be developed with that of the adjoining area within the "detour" for development into a park. This park would then become one of the features of the Boundary Boulevard and a link in the Forts Drive. The members of the Commission endorsed the plan.

The committee adjourned at 1:15 p.m., and then took luncheon at the Century Club.

C O P Y

August 5, 1921.

Gentlemen:

The sketch of the proposed War Memorial to the men from the Agricultural Department who died in the World War was submitted to the Commission at their meeting on July 26, 1921.

The design submitted by you if well executed would call for an expenditure of not less than \$50,000. It was the opinion of the Commission that no memorial should be erected on the space in front of the new building without the approval of the architect of that building. The two should be in harmony. Attention also is called to the fact that the grades are some eight feet higher than they will be when the Agricultural Department building is completed. It is therefore impossible at present to fix a location.

The Commission suggest that a memorial placed inside of the building would probably be more satisfactory than one located in the grounds.

I will be pleased to meet representatives of your committee and discuss the matter with them with a view to explaining more fully the difficulties.

Very truly, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore
Chairman.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture
War Memorial Committee,
Mr. W. C. Henderson, Chairman,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

July 26, 1921.

My dear Mr. Baker:

At a meeting in New York City today the members of the Commission discussed the question of the silver dollar. It was decided, subject to your approval, to retain the head of Liberty for the obverse, and try to obtain a very fine head. Will you please state -

1. What according to the existing law must go on the reverse?
2. Whether you can change the design of the reverse?
3. Any suggestions you have as to the design.

For the Verdun Medal we had a competition of eight of the best medallists of this country and the War Department paid each competitor \$100. The winning competitor received \$1,500. for his design and model. The same price is being paid to the man who designed the Missouri Centennial Coin. Will you please inform the Commission if a similar arrangement would be satisfactory to you?

Cordially, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore
Chairman.

Hon. Raymond T. Baker,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B.

July 27, 1921.

Dear Mr. Platt:

The Commission of Fine Arts has been approached by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in regard to the old question of a design for paper money. After an extended discussion the Commission feel that you are the man who is to lay out a bill either the present size, or somewhat similar, and to indicate the disposition of the lettering and ornaments. Inasmuch as the United States bills travel far and are not frequently redeemed the chief concern is protection against counterfeiting. This requires a bill more elaborate than other countries find necessary. Moreover, it has been found to be the experience that the dots in steel engraving are difficult to counterfeit by photography since the camera gives the same value to large and small dots of different depths. Could you undertake this work and what would be the remuneration? The revision of the figures denoting the denomination of the bill is important so as to make the denomination plain in various sections of the bill itself.

Cordially, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore.

Charles A. Platt, Esq.,
101 Park Avenue,
New York City.

EXHIBIT C.

C O P Y

July 28, 1921.

Dear Colonel Penrose:

With reference to your letter of June 21, with which you returned designs for the headstone of the World War graves, I noted that it is your understanding that the Commission of Fine Arts has prepared a model for the proposed Roman Cross and the Star of David, which are to be cut in the headstones.

The Commission of Fine Arts has not requested the execution of models for this work, in the absence of authority from your office for such action. The matter, however, was brought to the attention of the sculptor member of the Commission, and at a meeting of the members of the Commission on July 26, 1921 they recommended that Leo Friedlander, 71 Woodside Street, Stamford, Connecticut, be employed to furnish plaster models, one of the Cross and the other of the Star of David, to be cut on the headstones for soldiers of the World War, at a price of \$75.00 for the two models.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore
Chairman.

Colonel George H. Penrose, U. S. Army,
Chief, Cemeterial Division,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D.

August 5, 1921.

Dear Mr. Lukeman:

After the inspection of the full-size model for the Asbury Memorial at your studio on July 26, 1921 the Commission of Fine Arts approved the same with certain changes in the pedestal as follows:

All ornamentation is to be omitted.

The inscription is to go well up on the front. All further inscriptions to go in the pavement are to be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts.

The pedestal itself to be modified in accordance with suggestions made to you and shown on the blueprint.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

Augustus Lukeman, Esq.,
145 West Fifty-fifth Street,
New York City.

EXHIBIT E.

